## Case 2:19-cv-02308-**CIAVILDGOMER SHID DI1**05/28/19 Page 1 of 2

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ourpose of initiating the civil of	CTIONS ON NE	XT PAGE OF THIS	S FORM.)		
. (a) PLAINTIFFS	AIL AIL		DEFENDANTS	·	
Nicolas White			iHerb, Inc.		
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, 2 Jonathan Chase, Esq F	f First Listed Plaintif( Bucks (CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTINE CASES)  Address, and Telephone Number) (Yaemer Manes & Associates LL (50, Philadelphia, PA 19103)	C	NOTE: IN LAND CO	of First Listed Defendant	· ·
II. BASIS OF JURISD	CTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	ın.	CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		(For Diversity Cases Only) PT Citizen of This State	TF DEF	and One Box for Defendant)  PTF DEF incipal Place
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in	1	Citizen of Another State	2	
		C	Citizen or Subject of a  Foreign Country	3	06 06
IV. NATURE OF SUIT					of Suit Code Descriptions.
CONTRACT  110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise  REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	□ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ 7360 Other Personal Injury □ 360 Other Personal Injury □ 362 Personal Injury □ Medical Malpractice □ 441 Voting □ 443 Housing/ □ 445 Amer, w/Disabilities □ 446 Amer, w/Disabilities □ 0ther □ 448 Education □ 365 Perso □ 760 Heart □ 370 Other □ 371 Truth □ 371 Truth □ 385 Prope □ 375 Product □ 376 Other □ 377 Other □ 376 Other □ 377 Other □ 378 Prope □ 378 Prope □ 385 P	nat Injury - net Liability   Care/ naceutical nat Injury et Liability tos Personal / Product lity L PROPERTY Fraud in Lending Personal rty Damage et Liability  CPETITIONS  Orpus: Detainee ns to Vacate lice al Penalty  amus & Other Rights Condition	J 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 George Control of Pr	BANKRUPTCY    422 Appeal 28 USC 158   423 Withdrawal   28 USC 157    PROPERTY RIGHTS   820 Copyrights   830 Patent   Abbreviated   New Drug Application   840 Trademark   SOCIAL SECURITY   861 HIA (1395ff)   862 Black Lung (923)   863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))   864 SSID Title XVI   865 RSI (405(g))    FEDERAL TAX SUITS   870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff   or Defendant)   871 IRS—Third Party   26 USC 7609	OTHER STATUTES  ☐ 375 False Claims Act ☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC ☐ 3729(a)) ☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust ☐ 430 Banks and Banking ☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and ☐ Corrupt Organizations ☐ 480 Consumer Credit ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/ ☐ Exchange ☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 893 Environmental Matters ☐ 895 Freedom of Information ☐ Act ☐ 896 Arbitration ☐ 899 Administrative Procedure ☐ Act/Review or Appeal of ☐ Agency Decision ☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
Proceeding State  VI. CAUSE OF ACTION  VII. REQUESTED IN  COMPLAINT:  VIII. RELATED CASE	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under we 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq.  Brief description of cause: Title VII of the Civil Rights A UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.	urt R nich you are filin	(specify) g (Do not cite jurisdictional stati	District Litigation Transfer  utes unless diversity):	
IF ANY	JUDGE	RE OF ATTORNE	EY OF RECORD	DOCKET NUMBER	
05/24/2019 OR OFFICE USE ONLY	$\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{C}}$	Marca-			A Comment
	OUNT APPL	YING IFP	JUDGE	мафПр	LE 29 CURE.

Case 2:19-cv-02300 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Case 2:19-cv-02300 THE CAST EXPONSIONET OF PENNSY (2014) PAGE 2:012-2308

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro-se-plaining to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calculate.)

Address of Plaintiff:	467 Rick Road, Sout	• • •	
Address of Defendant: 2530 Pearl Buck Road, Bris	stol, PA 19007 & 1540 Van Buren Road,	Easton, PA 18045 &15535 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618	
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:	2530 Pearl B	uck Road, Bristol, PA 19007	
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:			
Case Number:	Judge:	Date Terminated:	
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answere	ed to any of the following questions:		
<ol> <li>Is this case related to property included in an e previously terminated action in this court?</li> </ol>	arlier numbered suit pending or within	n one year Yes No	
<ol><li>Does this case involve the same issue of fact o pending or within one year previously termina</li></ol>		a prior suit Yes No No	
	Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court?		
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corp case filed by the same individual?	ous, social security appeal, or pro se ci	vil rights Yes No No	
this court except as noted above.  DATE: 05/24/2019  CIVIL: (Place a \( \) in one category only)	Attorney-at-Law/Pro Se Pla	312448  if tiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)	
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diver	sity Jurisdiction Cases:	
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and 2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify): Title	2.   3.   4.   5.   6.   7.   8.   9.	Insurance Contract and Other Contracts Airplane Personal Injury Assault, Defamation Marine Personal Injury Motor Vehicle Personal Injury Other Personal Injury (Please specify): Products Liability Products Liability — Asbestos All other Diversity Cases (Please specify):	
an v	ARBITRATION CERTIF		
Jonathan Chase, Esq.	of interest and costs:	and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case	
DATE: 05/24/2019	Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Pla	312448	
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there	•	intiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)	

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#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

### MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Nicolas White

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CIVIL ACTION

2308

iHerb, Inc.

NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

#### SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.	(	(	)
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.	(	(	` '
(c) Arbitration - Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2	. (	(	)
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.	(	(	`

- (e) Special Management Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)
- (f) Standard Management Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.


5/24/2019 Jonathan Chase, Esq. Nicolas White Attorney-at-law Date Attorney for (215) 734 2466 Fax (215) 475 3504 Direct jwc@lawkm.com

Telephone FAX Number E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

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S 400 EASTERN D	ISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
Nicolas White,	Case No
Plaintiff,	Case No.
v.	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
iHerb, Inc.	

Defendant.

#### **COMPLAINT**

NOW COMES, Plaintiff, Nicolas White ("Plaintiff"), by and through his undersigned attorneys, and files this complaint alleging as follows:

#### **Nature of the Action**

1. Plaintiff brings this action against iHerb, Inc. ("Defendant") alleging violations

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII" - 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq.).

#### Jurisdiction and Venue

- 1. This action is initiated pursuant to federal law. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania has original subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the claims arise under the laws of the United States.
- 2. This Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendant because its contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of jurisdiction to comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice, satisfying the standard set forth by the United States Supreme Court in <u>International Shoe Co. v. Washington</u>, 326 U.S. 310 (1945) and its progeny.
- 3. Venue is properly laid in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2) because Defendant resides in and/or conducts business in this judicial district and because

a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district.

4. Plaintiff filed a Charge of Discrimination and retaliation with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"). Plaintiff has properly exhausted his administrative proceedings with respect to his EEOC claims by instituting the instant action within ninety (90) days of receiving a right to sue letter from the EEOC. (*See* Notice of Right to Sue, attached hereto as "Exhibit A.").

#### **Parties**

- 2. Plaintiff, is an adult individual with a primary residence located at 467 Rick Road, Southampton, PA 18966.
- Defendant is a business entity with a place of business located at 2530 Pearl Buck Road, Bristol, PA 19007.
- 4. Upon information and belief, Defendant has a place of business located at 1540 Van Buren Road, Easton, PA 18045.
- 5. Upon information and belief, Defendant's corporate headquarters is located at 15535 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618.

#### **Factual Background**

- 6. Plaintiff was hired by Defendant as Inventory Control on about September 15, 2017.
- 7. At all times relevant herein, Lukemon Ope ("Mr. Ope") worked for Defendant as a Security Guard. Plaintiff worked for Defendant at the address listed in Paragraph 3.

- 8. In about May of 2018, Mr. Ope subjected Plaintiff to unwanted sexual harassment. Specifically, at that time, Mr. Ope handed Plaintiff his phone whilst said phone was displaying a number of pornographic files and/or images.
- 9. About one (1) day after the incident referenced in Paragraph 8, Mr. Ope informed Plaintiff that his computer was behaving slowly, to which Plaintiff responded with an inquiry wherein Plaintiff used the word "masturbating." Plaintiff made such a reference because Mr. Ope had previously showed Plaintiff pornographic materials.
- 10. Shortly after the incidents referenced in Paragraph 8 and Paragraph 9, Plaintiff was issued a "Final Written Warning" for, *inter alia*, allegedly using inappropriate and offensive language in the workplace.
- 11. Plaintiff submitted a written response to the Final Written Warning referenced in Paragraph 9. Therein, Plaintiff expressly advised Defendant that Mr. Ope had showed Plaintiff pornographic material.
- 12. Upon information and belief, Mr. Ope was not disciplined for sharing pornography in the workplace.
- 13. Following the incidents referenced in Paragraphs 8 through 11, inclusive, Mr. Ope began subjecting Plaintiff to a further pattern of sexual harassment. This harassment included but was not limited to the following:
  - On a nearly daily basis, Mr. Ope would tell Plaintiff that he "felt drawn to" Plaintiff and that he "needed to be around" Plaintiff;
  - Mr. Ope would constantly follow Plaintiff throughout Defendant's warehouse;
  - Mr. Ope would constantly corner Plaintiff near Plaintiff's desk or otherwise block Plaintiff when Plaintiff attempted to walk through Defendant's warehouse; and

- Mr. Ope would demand to know why Plaintiff would not speak to him or say hello.
- 14. As a result of the forgoing harassment, Plaintiff made complaints to Defendant HR representative, Ranja Barton ("Mrs. Barton") and Facility Manager James Farre ("Mr. Farre"). Specifically, Plaintiff reported that Mr. Ope would frequently linger around Plaintiff, awkwardly stare at Plaintiff and tell other employees that he missed Plaintiff.
- 15. Defendant did not take any remedial action in response to Plaintiff's complaints. In fact, Mr. Farre even reprimanded Plaintiff for complaining to HR as opposed to coming directly to him.
- 16. On about August 22, 2018, Mr. Ope entered the break room/common area and began staring at Plaintiff. When Plaintiff requested that Mr. Ope leave him alone, Mr. Ope responded by saying "I love you" and that he "can't help it."
- 17. During the incident referenced in Paragraph 16, Plaintiff became frustrated by Mr. Ope's unwanted conduct, and as such raised his voice while again requesting that Mr. Ope cease his pattern of harassment and leave him alone.
- 18. On the same day as the incidents referenced in Paragraph 16 and Paragraph 17, Plaintiff was terminated from employment.

# COUNT I <u>Violations of Title VII</u> (Sexual Harassment, Hostile Work Environment and Retaliation)

- 19. The averments contained in the preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein as though set forth at length.
  - 20. Defendant is an employer as defined by the Title VII.

- 21. As set forth in detail above, Plaintiff was subjected a pattern of severe, pervasive and unwelcome sexual harassment.
- 22. As set forth in detail above, Plaintiff engaged in protected activity when he complained of the aforesaid harassment.
- 23. Defendant had actual knowledge of the aforementioned sexual harassment by virtue of Plaintiff's reports of same.
  - 24. Defendant did not take any remedial action to address Plaintiff's complaints.
- 25. As set forth in detail above, Plaintiff was terminated from employment within a close temporal proximity of his protected activity.
  - 26. The above actions constitute violations of Title VII.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Honorable Court enter an order that:

- A. Defendant is to be prohibited from continuing to maintain its illegal policy, practice or custom of discriminating/harassing/retaliating against employees and is to be ordered to promulgate an effective policy against such unlawful acts and to adhere thereto;
- B. Defendant is to compensate Plaintiff, reimburse Plaintiff and make Plaintiff whole for any and all pay and benefits Plaintiff would have received had it not been for Defendant's illegal actions, including but not limited to past lost earnings, future lost earnings, salary, pay increases, bonuses, medical and other benefits, training, promotions and seniority. Plaintiff should be accorded those benefits illegally withheld from the date he first suffered retaliation at the hand of Defendant until the date of verdict;
- C. Plaintiff is to be awarded punitive damages, as permitted by applicable law, in an amount determined by the Court or trier of fact to be appropriate to punish Defendant for its

willful, deliberate, malicious and outrageous conduct and to deter Defendant or other employees

from engaging in such misconduct in the future;

D. Plaintiff is to be accorded any and all other equitable and legal relief as the Court

deems just, proper and appropriate, including but not limited to, liquidated damages, emotional

distress and/or pain and suffering damages (where legally permitted);

E. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action and reasonable legal

fees as provided by applicable law;

F. Any verdict in favor of Plaintiff is to be molded by the Court to maximize the

financial recovery available to Plaintiff in light of the caps on certain damages set forth in

applicable law; and

G. Plaintiff's claims are to receive a trial by jury to the extent allowed by applicable

law. Plaintiff also has endorsed this demand on the caption of this Complaint in accordance with

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan W. Chase, Esq.

KRAEMER, MANES &

ASSOCIATES LLC

PA ID: 312448

1628 JFK Blvd.

Suite 1650

Philadelphia, PA 19102

(215) 475 3504 Direct

(215) 734 2466 Fax

jwc@lawkm.com

# EXHIBIT A

EEOC Form 161-B (11/16)

### U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

### NOTICE OF RIGHT TO SUE (ISSUED ON REQUEST)

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO SUE (ISSUED ON REQUEST)				
467 R	as White ick Road ampton, PA 18966	F	rom:	Philadelphia District Office 801 Market Street Suite 1300 Philadelphia, PA 19107
	On behalf of person(s) aggrieved w			
EEOC Charg	e No.	EEOC Representative		Telephone No.
530-201 <del>9</del> -	02277	Legal Unit		(215) 440-2828
		(See	also	the additional information enclosed with this form.)
Notice to the Person Aggrieved:  Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA): This is your Notice of Right to Sue, issued under Title VII, the ADA or GINA based on the above-numbered charge. It has been issued at your request. Your lawsuit under Title VII, the ADA or GINA must be filed in a federal or state court WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)				
	More than 180 days have passed since the filing of this charge.			
X	Less than 180 days have passed since the filing of this charge, but I have determined that it is unlikely that the EEOC will be able to complete its administrative processing within 180 days from the filing of this charge.			
X	X The EEOC is terminating its processing of this charge.			
	The EEOC will continue to process this charge.			
Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA): You may sue under the ADEA at any time from 60 days after the charge was filed until 90 days after you receive notice that we have completed action on the charge. In this regard, the paragraph marked below applies to your case:				
	The EEOC is closing your case. Therefore, your lawsuit under the ADEA must be filed in federal or state court <u>WITHI</u> 90 DAYS of your receipt of this Notice. Otherwise, your right to sue based on the above-numbered charge will be lost			
	The EEOC is continuing its handling of your ADEA case. However, if 60 days have passed since the filing of the charge, you may file suit in federal or state court under the ADEA at this time.			
Equal Pay Act (EPA): You already have the right to sue under the EPA (filing an EEOC charge is not required.) EPA suits must be brought in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible.				
If you file suit, based on this charge, please send a copy of your court complaint to this office.				
		On behalf of th	e Cor	mmission
		Jamil	Allen	03/04/2019
Enclosures	s(s)	Jamle R. Williar	nson	n, (Date Mailed)

**District Director** 

CC:

Manisha Campaneria Human Resources Manager IHERB INC. 15535 Sand Canyon Ave. Irvine, CA 92618 Colin Saltry, Esq. KRAEMER, MANES & ASSOCIATES LLC 1628 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Sulte 1650